



Washington State Health Care Authority

P.O. Box 42702 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2702
FAX 360-923-2614 • TTY 360-923-2701 • www.hca.wa.gov

May 11, 2006

To: **Evidence Based Medicine Technology Assessment Entities**

Re: **Request for Information**

The purpose of this Request for Information is for the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to learn more about public or private entities conducting evidence based technology assessments. [ESSHB 2575](#) was passed by the Legislature in 2006, creating the State Health Technology Assessment Program (SHTAP), a key component of Governor Gregoire's [five point strategy for improving health care](#). The RFI is intended to assist the HCA in implementing ESSHB 2575, particularly Section 3(4).

About HCA

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is a 275-employee, cabinet level agency that manages the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB), Basic Health Program (BHP), Community Health Services (CHS), the Prescription Drug Project (PDP), and the state's self funded health insurance plan, the Uniform Medical Plan (UMP). The SHTAP is an effort by the State to employ evidence based medicine principles to its purchasing of health care. Simply put, evidence based health care is health care that works – treatment that is based on proven practices and scientific research. The State plans to use solid scientific literature to approve coverage for new and emerging medical technologies.

The SHTAP will determine (in collaboration with the affected agencies) which health technologies to evaluate, contract with an evidence based practice center or similar entity to conduct the technology assessment (which includes gathering, reviewing and evaluating all the scientific and medical evidence regarding that technology), establish, staff and manage a health technology clinical committee that will then take that technology assessment and make a coverage recommendation (cover, not cover, or cover under specific guidelines that an advisory committee would develop) to the state agencies.

More information about HCA, its services and plans can be found on the HCA web site at <http://www.hca.wa.gov>. Information about the State Health Technology Assessment Program can also be found on the HCA web site at <http://www.hca.wa.gov/shtap/>.

Evidence based technology assessment entities are encouraged to respond to this RFI. Responders should answer the questions attached as Exhibit 1. Responses to this RFI should be received by HCA no later than close of business, **June 12, 2006**, and should be sent to:

Cyndi Presnell
Health Care Authority
P.O. Box 42702
Olympia WA 98504-2702
Email: Cpre107@hca.wa.gov

Questions need to be submitted no later than close of business on **June 5, 2006** and addressed to Ms. Presnell, in writing, at the above address, or via email. Be sure to include telephone and FAX numbers, and your email address on responses.

We would like to thank responders in advance. Responding to this type of request is time consuming, and companies have no guarantee of any return or compensation. Your responses will provide valuable assistance to the HCA.

EXHIBIT 1

1. Describe in detail the process through which your entity can assist HCA in fulfilling the requirements of ESSHB 2575, particularly Section 3(4), including your evidence based medicine methods, criteria and processes.
2. Describe the methods you have or would use to search and incorporate information from previously conducted technology assessments by public and/or private entities who conduct technology assessments.
3. Describe how you have or would incorporate outcomes data, or currently available local data into technology assessments.
4. Describe how you have or would provide evaluation or audit of the validity, reliability and consistency of a technology assessment program.
5. Describe whether and how technology assessments conducted by your organization have been or could be used by any public entity or private insurer to make coverage decisions or to develop coverage criteria.
6. Please describe how HCA can comply with public disclosure requests for information or appeals related to coverage decisions if technology assessments are considered proprietary.
7. Describe and give examples of health technology assessments, including impacts on special populations (e.g., diverse with regard to age, gender, ethnicity, or disability) conducted on:
 - a. Medical and surgical procedures
 - b. Medical equipment
 - c. Medical devices
 - d. Diagnostic tests
8. Estimate the time and resources required for:
 - a. Implementation
 - b. Timeframe associated with receipt, evaluation and report of a technology assessment (simple to complex)
9. Provide a list of:
 - a. General pricing options
 - b. References
10. Describe key barriers to the accomplishment of requirements outlined in the questions above that exist or are envisioned and key enablers that exist or are envisioned. (This will allow reviewers of your submission to better interpret your responses with regard to interoperability.)
11. Please describe any technology industry funding, associations, sponsorships, or any other potential areas of conflict in conducting technology assessments.